toilets and urinals at stations. The details of norms for quantum of Minimum Essential Amenities for toilets and urinals at various categories of station are as under:—

Category of station	A-1	A	B	C	D	E	F
No. of urinals	12	10	6	4	4	1	—
No. of toilets	12	10	6	2	4	1	—

(b) and (c) All minimum essential amenities including toilets and urinals have been provided at platforms and waiting halls/sheds at all railway stations as per the prescribed norms. Further augmentation of toilet/urinal facilities is undertaken through Annual Works Programme as and when warranted depending upon availability of funds and other relative priorities. The existing toilets and urinals are kept in usable condition through regular cleaning and maintenance.

To have clean and hygienic conditions on platforms, steps like introduction of mechanized cleaning, provision of "Pay and Use" toilets, cleanliness awareness campaigns etc. have been undertaken. Regular inspections are conducted by various officials at the railway stations to monitor cleanliness and also to identify weak areas and take remedial measures.

Railway projects affected by spiralling prices of steel

2390. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the spiralling prices of steel has been affecting the on-going railway projects;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the contractors are threatening to pull out of the works in view of spiralling steel prices;

(c) the details of reports from zonal railways with regard to delay in execution of works, particularly from the SCR; and

(d) what is the outcome of the recently held 'Infrastructure Builders Meet'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The abnormal increase in prices of steel had been one of the major reasons adversely affecting progress of ongoing projects. However, of late, prices of steel have been showing downward trend.

(b) The contractors were demanding suitable compensation for such abnormal hike in price of steel in the market.

(c) Targeted projects are not delayed except Jaggayapet-Mallacheruvu in South Central Railway where delay is due to change in alignment as per suggestion of beneficiaries and delay in land acquisition. There has been some delay in supply of concrete sleepers for targeted works.

(d) The Infrastructure Builders' Meet was held in 2008 to have interaction with the Construction Industry, to make them aware of Railway Plans and to get their suggestions on Contract Management issue. The suggestions made were considered and appropriate action initiated.

New rail line proposals of Maharashtra and Rajasthan

2391. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new rail line proposals of Maharashtra and Rajasthan have been included in the Rail Budget 2009-10 for conducting survey work; and

(b) what is the time frame fixed up by the Railway Ministry for the survey of above new rail lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Five surveys for construction of new line in Rajasthan and three surveys for construction of new line in Maharashtra have been included in the Budget 2009-10. These surveys are planned to be completed in about two years time.

Delayed railway projects in Maharashtra

2392. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra has been asking for expeditious completion of various railway projects like widening of existing railway lines and doubling the existing railway lines etc. in the State;

(b) the names of all pending projects and whether it is also a fact that the projects namely Baramati-Lonand, Amaravati- Narkhed and Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli in particular, have been delayed inordinately; and

(c) the reasons for delay in responding to these demands of the Government of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Names of ongoing projects falling fully/partly in Maharashtra is as under:—

Sl.No.	Name of the ongoing project
1	2
	New Line
1.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vaijnath
2.	Amravati-Narkher